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North Boulder

Plan for cultural center fizzles

Amid affordability crisis, Arts Alliance struggles to find space

By Alex Burness
Staff Writer

Citing cost concerns, the Boulder County Arts Alliance has abandoned its plan for a new cultural center at the north Boulder warehouse owned by Namasté Solar.

The fizzling of the plan is a blow to the arts community, the long-term vitality of which is threatened by significant affordability concerns.

At 4571 Broadway, the Arts Alliance had sought to occupy the 15,000-square-foot Namasté property, which the solar company vacated recently. In September, the nonprofit announced early plans to rent out the entire space and turn it into a place where artists — who often cannot find affordable studio space in Boulder — could create, perform and exhibit their work.

Namasté was very much on board, and offered reduced rent. The Boulder Arts Commission was also willing to pitch in about $16,000.

But even with that help, and even after scaling back the plan to include only a portion of the Namasté space, the Arts Alliance, after gauging interest from prospective tenants of the theoretical center, determined that the project was not feasible.

"There was a lot of interest and a lot of the people who've been interested in it said, 'Yeah, this sounds really great. I'd love to be a part

See COMMUNITY, 13A

Cliff Grassmick / Staff Photographer
The Boulder County Arts Alliance had sought a new cultural center at the former Namasté Solar property at 4571 Broadway.

Smashing debut

Jeremy Papasso • Staff Photographer

Lyons High School's Oran Huff, right, ties up with Colton Sims, of Rye High School, during a 126-pound first-round match Thursday during the first day of the state wrestling tournament at the Pepsi Center in Denver. **See more in Sports, 1C. See more photos at BoCoPreps.com.**

Longmont police searches

Housing director Reis ousted

Decision comes after mocking photo surfaces

By Amelia Arvesen and Sam Lounsberry
Staff Writers

The Longmont Housing Authority ousted executive director Michael Reis on Thursday after a photo surfaced of him making light of the controversy surrounding the warrantless police searches at a subsidized housing complex last year.

The photograph shows Reis — wearing red, white and blue sweatbands and a bronze medal around his neck — atop a mock Olympic podium, celebrating the Times-Call's ranking of the unconstitutional searches at The Suites as the No. 3 news story of 2017.

Behind him, a banner reads: "Longmont Housing Authority. 3rd Place Winner. Longmont Times-Call 2017 Local News Story."

A former Longmont Housing Authority employee emailed the photograph to the Times-Call and

See DIRECTOR, 2A

Weather

High: 44 | Low: 29
Mostly sunny
Complete details on Page 12C

7 49377 22674
Subscriptions 303-444-3444
Complete index, Page 2A

Dougherty and Foote finalists for DA

Gov. Hickenlooper to appoint the interim prosecutor by March 1

Foote

Dougherty

By Mitchell Byars
Staff Writer

Boulder County prosecutor and state legislator Mike Foote and Jefferson County prosecutor Michael Dougherty are the two finalists to be appointed to replace Boulder County District Attorney Stan Garnett until the general election in November.

Garnett is stepping down at the end of the month to pursue a job at his old law firm.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's office announced the two finalists on Wednesday.

Hickenlooper will now have until March 1 to select a new district attorney.

See ELECTION, 2A

INSIDE

See this year's official guide for the Boulder International Film Festival.

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